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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2625

INFO RUEHRC/DEPT OF AGRICULTURE USDA WASHINGTON DC

RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE

RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS 4858

RUEHNP/AMCONSUL NAPLES 3983

RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN 0204

RUEHFL/AMCONSUL FLORENCE 3774

UNCLAS ROME 001031

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR EEB/TPP/ABT

DEPT FOR EUR/ERA

DEPT PLEASE PASS TO USTR

DEPT PLEASE PASS TO USDA/FAS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: ECON ETRD EUN TBO IT

SUBJECT: NO EU BAN ON U.S. SOY PRODUCTS IN EU AGRICULTURE COUNCIL  
MEETING AGENDA

REF: STATE 86566

¶1. Post's Econ and FAS Sections delivered reftel points to the Italian Director General for Trade Amedeo Teti. We also delivered them to Romano Marabelli, Head of the Department of Veterinary Public Health in the Ministry of Health, and to Salvatore Petroli, Chief of EU and International Affairs at the Ministry of Agriculture.

¶2. Our Italian interlocutors reported that there is currently no EU ban on imports of U.S. soy products resulting from the recent discovery in Germany and Spain of dust from a biotech corn variety (MON88017) currently prohibited in the European Union. Director General Teti added that as a result, this issue is not on the agenda of items to be discussed at the September 7 EU Agriculture Council meeting. Teti said that he will inform us on the outcome of the EU meeting, should this issue be discussed at all. Teti also added that the decision to stop U.S. soy product imports at ports of entry in Germany and Spain appears to be tied to individual importers/traders in those countries. No such issue exists for Italy.

¶3. Post will report on any substantive information obtained from the Italian Government following the September 7 EU Agriculture Council meeting.

THORNE